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PRESS-RELEASE

National Space Day Celebrated at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in Collaboration with RRSC-East, ISRO

Marking the second National Space Day (NSpD), the Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad, in collaboration with the Regional Remote Sensing Centre-East (RRSC-East), ISRO, Kolkata, hosted a grand celebration today to honour India's historic lunar achievement. The day commemorates the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander on the Moon's South Polar Region on August 23, 2023, an accomplishment that led the Government of India to designate August 23 as National Space Day.

The program at IIT (ISM) saw the enthusiastic participation of more than 350 students from eight prominent schools across Dhanbad. Designed to ignite curiosity and passion for space science and technology, the event served as an engaging platform for young learners to connect with India's space journey.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director of IIT (ISM), presided over the event as Chief Guest and delivered an inspirational address, urging students to pursue their intellectual curiosity with dedication. He emphasized that the journey from science to engineering and eventually to technology is what drives national development. His words resonated deeply with the young audience, setting the tone for a day filled with learning and inspiration.

Dr. A.O. Varghese, Scientist Engineer G and Deputy General Manager at RRSC-East, ISRO, addressed the gathering during the inaugural session and emphasized that one of the key objectives of celebrating National Space Day is to spark curiosity among school students and inspire them to pursue careers in the space sector. He underscored that ISRO's work is not limited to exploration of space alone but also contributes significantly to societal applications, including areas such as food security and disaster reduction.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sanjit Kumar Pal from the Department of Applied Geophysics, who also served as the IIT (ISM) Coordinator for the event. He provided valuable insights into remote sensing and related scientific activities. Later, Dr. Niptika Jana, Assistant Professor in the same department, offered the vote of thanks during the inaugural session, acknowledging the efforts of the organizing teams and the enthusiastic participation of students and scientists alike.

Among the scientific sessions held during the program, Dr. Arindam Guha, Group Head at RRSC-East, delivered a talk on ISRO's planetary exploration missions focused on terrestrial planets. Shri Rajendransigh P Byali, Deputy Director of the Human Space Flight Centre, ISRO, offered an insightful overview of India's Human Space Programme, captivating the imagination of the young audience.

To further engage the students, the event featured an interactive quiz competition, video presentations, and a space exhibition. Scientists from ISRO facilitated interaction sessions, answering questions from the students and sharing behind-the-scenes glimpses of India's ambitious space missions.

Students from several schools of the district took part, including District C.M. School of Excellence (Zila School), Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Carmel School, Dhanbad Public School, De Nobili School CMRI, Kids Garden Senior Secondary School, D.A.V. Public School Alkusa, and Swami Vivekananda School. Their active involvement added vibrancy to the occasion, and the spirit of inquiry and enthusiasm displayed by them was commendable.

The student engagement activities were coordinated by Dr. Tanmuj Kumar and Nairit Das of RRSC-East, with vital support from student volunteers of IIT (ISM). The program concluded with a prize distribution ceremony



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recognizing winners of the quiz competition, followed by a formal vote of thanks delivered jointly by Dr. Arindam Guha and representatives from IIT (ISM).

The National Space Day celebration not only paid tribute to ISRO's milestone achievement but also served as a platform to nurture the scientific spirit in the young minds of Jharkhand. It was a reminder of the possibilities that space exploration holds and the pivotal role that education and curiosity play in shaping the future of the nation.

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